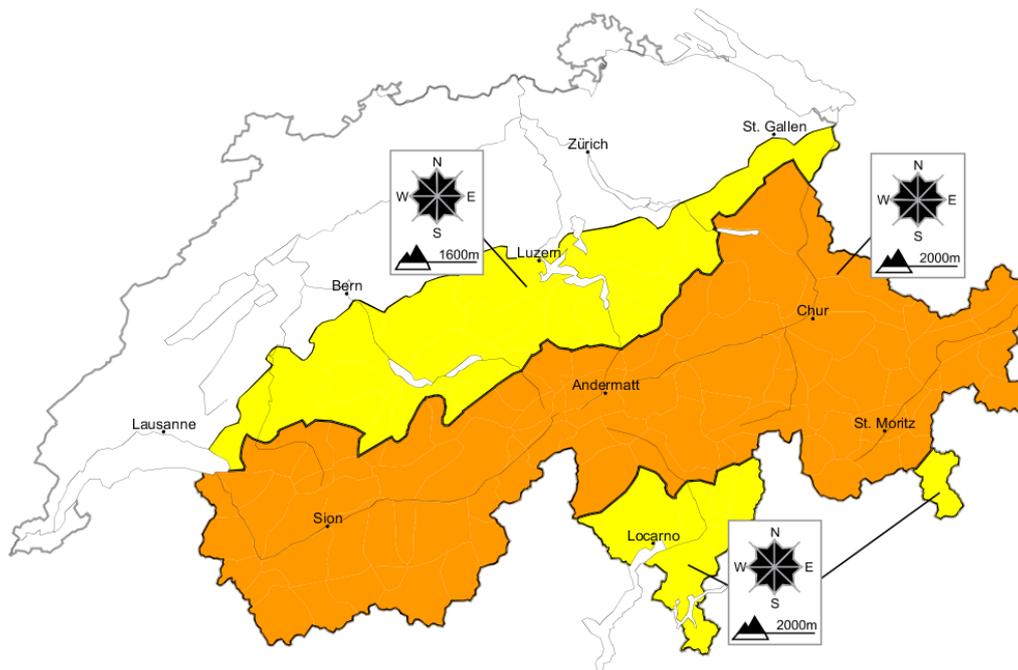


Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 29.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 29.12.2012, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 29.12.2012, 08:00



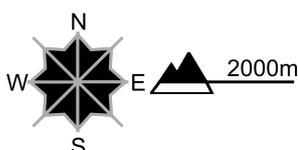
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Small and medium-sized avalanches are possible. In particular in the inneralpine regions avalanches can be released in the faceted old snow. This applies in particular on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



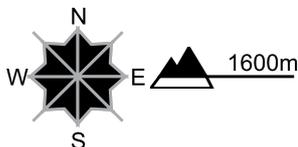
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Mostly avalanches are small. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible.

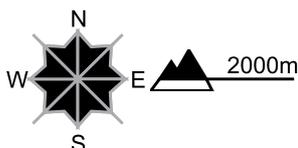
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. This applies especially at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can in some cases be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Mostly they are small. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.12.2012, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the stormy winds and snowfall, wide ranging snow drift accumulations have formed afresh. They will remain prone to triggering to begin with and currently constitute the major danger. Beneath them are several snow layers which for the most part are well consolidated. Fracturing deep down inside the old snow cover can still be expected only in isolated cases, in particular in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons.

The activity of wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides has receded significantly. Nevertheless, isolated full depth snowslides continue to be possible.

Observed weather on Friday, 28.12.2012

In southern regions it was sunny. The precipitation also came to an end in northern regions. Skies were generally overcast accompanied by bright intervals over the course of the day.

Fresh snow

Since Thursday midday the following amounts of new fallen snow have been registered:

- western Lower Valais, northern Valais, Gotthard region, central and eastern parts of northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine and Müntertal, 30 to 50 cm
- Prealps, western part of northern flank of the Alps, remaining Valais, remaining northern Ticino, central Grisons, Upper Engadine, 20 to 30 cm
- central Ticino, Sotto Ceneri, Val Calanca, Val Moesa, Bergell and Val Poschiavo, 10 to 20 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between minus 1 degree in western and southern regions and minus 6 degrees in northern and eastern regions

Wind

During the night, storm strength, during the day moderate to strong velocity northwesterly to northerly winds

Weather forecast until Saturday, 29.12.2012

In northern regions it will be rather sunny, apart from scattered cloudbanks. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. Temperatures are expected to rise significantly.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Markedly higher temperatures in northern regions. At midday at 2000 m, plus 6 degrees in northern regions and minus 1 degree in southern regions.

Wind

Light to moderate velocity southwesterly winds

Outlook until Monday, 31.12.2012

Sunday

In northern regions it will be overcast accompanied by a bit of snowfall. Bright intervals are anticipated during the course of the day. In southern regions it will remain generally sunny. It will again turn colder. The avalanche danger is expected to subside.

Monday

It will be rather sunny. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish.